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Senate Moves Life Sciences Center Funding to Current Budget

\$10 Million for George Proposal Placed in Supplemental Budget Bill

LANSING – The State Senate voted today to move funding for the Western Michigan University Life Sciences Research Center to the Supplemental Budget Bill, Senate Bill 540, making the \$10 million dollars available for the current fiscal year. Funding for the Center had been originally placed in the 2003-2004 budget, through an amendment sponsored by Sen. Tom George, R-Texas Township.

“Once again, my senate colleagues have endorsed funding the Center,” George said. “Moving the funding to this year’s budget enables the Center to be up and running sooner. It makes it easier for WMU to convince some of our local scientific talent that these high quality jobs are imminent and that they should be looking here instead of outside the state.”

SB 540 allocates \$10 million to fund the Center through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation’s (MEDC) budget. It further specifies that the Center shall be located in Kalamazoo County. The bill passed the Senate 36 – 1 and will now go to the House for consideration on July 15, when it returns to session.

Editor’s Note: Audio comments from Senator George are available at www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire or by calling (517) 373-4000.

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